



## Montréal Communiqué

30 October, 1969.

HELPING KEEP OPTIONS OPEN: Ways in which detached workers forge significant links between society and alienated young people were outlined at a Rotary International Convention by Al Whittal of the YMCA's outreach staff.

"The detached worker can mingle freely and draw on his training to counsel or refer individuals to where they can obtain specialized assistance. He can also help them develop some form to their existence, find alternatives and provide that ever-essential listening ear."

In discussing current efforts to control drug-taking, he suggested that moralistic lectures or attempts by insufficiently informed individuals to solve youth problems are usually either tuned out or laughed down by teenage users. Nor is it possible to legislate this practice out of existence, he insisted.

While some authorities feel drugs may be helping tranquilize anarchists, others suggest they are making apathists out of many young idealists who would otherwise be sparking needed social change.

INVOLVING SPECIALISTS: As noted by Al Whittal, linking up young people with specialists is an important function of the detached worker. The same experts are also called on to participate in continuing efforts to strengthen the capabilities and understanding of those engaged in this work.

To help this development process, twenty members of Metro's Detached Unit recently spent two crowded weekends with a select group of authorities on different aspects of youth behavior. These included a Federal Crown Prosecutor, representatives of the RCMP and other police forces, a lawyer who specializes in youth offenders and several prominent psychiatrists.

To further its search for understanding and answers, senior representatives of the Y will meet later this month with a group of the leading psychiatrists in the field of juvenile behavior.

STREET WORK GAINING MOMENTUM: Dorval's city council has granted the YMCA \$10,500 to finance detached work in their community until the end of 1970. The municipality is maintaining liaison with the project through Councillor J. V. Ballance, head of its Public, Social and Welfare Commission.

Lachine's administration has also authorized a grant of \$1,500 to underwrite detached work until the end of this year. This municipality's council has, in addition, undertaken to study ways of financing such a program through 1970.

In addition to professional youth workers, efforts in both communities will involve citizens' committees and local service clubs, as well as civic administrators and police departments.

NO-MAN'S LAND: *The third floor of the Downtown YMCA Residence has been officially reserved for members of the fair sex. Six young ladies, five of them students, have already moved in as permanent guests.*

*Temporarily, at least, the floor has been declared off limits to males. But a proposal to provide a guest lounge there could change that ruling in the very near future.*

*Similar facilities are also being readied on the student floors.*

MAKING WAVES IN LABRADOR: The Downtown Y's Aquatic Programme now extends as far northeast as Labrador. It all came about as the result of a phone call Milt D'Ganigian received from Wabush last March.

Before he could flip his tank, the Downtown Aquatic director was visited by three members of the mining community who took a "Plunge" course in learning the various aspects of the branch's aquatic programme.

Three months later, Milt was invited back to examine the newly-trained scuba class and also help organize a club. Not only did he find an above average group of students, but also an overall well-run aquatic programme, all directed by volunteers.

At the moment, the swimming programme is the only source of organized recreation in the community. Milt feels it quite likely that the YMCA will be asked to help set up other programmes.

LOOKING AHEAD: A leading industrialist with a long record of community service has been appointed Chairman of the Montreal YMCA's newly-formed Development Committee. He is J. D. Houlding, President of RCA Victor Ltd. The committee, which reports directly to the Metropolitan Board of Directors, has major responsibility for pinpointing emerging needs, formulating policy for meeting them and for the long term development of the Montreal Association.

ENGLISH-FRENCH RELATIONSHIPS: As part of a drive to promote two-way communication and understanding between Quebec's two major language groups, the Metropolitan YMCA has also formed a Francophone Advisory Committee. It is headed by M. Michel Chevalier, Director of the University of Montreal's Centre d'Urbanisme.

SHORT TAKES: General Secretary Rix Rogers has started taking three French lessons a week . . . Metro Controller Ron Whittingham looking a bit more relaxed these days. His missus is back from the hospital after a three-week bout of pneumonia . . . Mac Singleton, former Executive Secretary of NDG Branch, reported happy and well in his new position in Ottawa . . . Ray Rouse recovering nicely from a broken arm. It was fractured during a role-playing session in detached work.

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